

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204195

FOR SEITZ

FOLLOWING REPEAT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA
ROME DAR ES SALAAM DJIBOUTI KHARTOUM MOGADISCIO 11 AUG 78.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 12008

E. O.11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID,ET, SO, KE, SU, TZ, FAO
SUBJECT: SESERT LOCUST CONTROL: KENYA'S PLANNING AND REQUIREMENTS

REFS: (A) STATE 181979; (B) NAIROBI 10777; (C) NAIROBI
10837; (D) STATE 199299; (E) ROME 13931; (F) STATE 200577;
(G) NAIROBI 10866; (H) STATE 203080

SUMMARY: GOK BELIEVES THERE IS REAL THREAT OF LOCUST SWARMS
INVADING NORTH EAST KENYA BY MID-OCTOBER. WHILE CONTINUING
TO SUPPORT FAO/DLCO MULTILATERAL ATTACK ON LOCUST PROBLEM ON
REGIONAL BASIS, GOK IS NOT FULLY CONFIDENT OF OUTCOME OF
MULTILATERAL EFFORTS AND IS THEREFORE PROCEEDING TO DEVELOP
ITS OWN NATIONAL CAPABILITY. GOK HAS NOW ALLOCATED MORE
THAN K.SH. \$ MILLION (SAY \$1.1 MILLION) TO SUCH OBJECTIVES.
USAID/K HAS MADE CLEAR TO GOK THAT USG IS OPERATING WITHIN
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FAO/DLCO FRAMEWORK. NONETHELESS, GOK HAS ASKED THAT WE
CONSIDER FURNISHING TWO BEAVER AIRCRAFT, ON GRANT BASIS,
DIRECTLY TO GOK. FAO/DIRECTOR GENERAL'S SENIOR CONSUL-
TANT ON LOCUST CONTROL, WITH WHOM WE CONSULTED IN
NAIROBI, SAID GOK IS ACTING QUITE REASONABLY IN MOVING
TO ACQUIRE ITS OWN BEAVERS. GOK ALSO REQUESTS BEST
QUALITY REPORTING POSSIBLE ON LOCUST SITUATION/SWARM
MOVEMENTS, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO OGADEN AREA.
AMBASSADOR AND ASSISTANT USAID DIRECTOR HAVE NOW MET
WITH V.P. MOI WHO EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR FAO/DLCO EFFORTS

AND FOR SOMALI/ETHIOPIAN COOPERATIVE EFFORTS. ACTION REQUESTED: (1) CONSIDERATION OF GOK REQUEST AND ADVICE TO US AS TO WHETHER BEAVERS MIGHT BE OFFERED BY USG TO GOK ON GRANT OR SALES BASIS; (2) REGULAR UPDATES ON SWARM MOVEMENTS, OF TYPE CONTAINED IN REF H. END SUMMARY.

1. REF (E) WAS IMPETUS FOR INFORMAL CONTACT ON AUGUST 8 BETWEEN USAID/K OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF GOK'S INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FORMED TO COMBAT POSSIBLE LOCUST INVASION OF KENYA. (COMMITTEE INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES OF AGRICULTURE, TREASURE,, DEFENSE, PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.) WE STRESSED (AS WE HAVE IN PAST) THAT USG POLICY IS THAT FAO IS COORDINATING AGENCY FOR MULTILATERAL EFFORTS AND THAT OUR ASSISTANCE IS BEING CHanneled THROUGH FAO TO DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION (DLCO). NONETHELESS, WE SAID, WE WANTED TO KEEP INFORMED AS TO KENYA'S PERCEPTION OF PROBLEM AND ITS OWN PLANNING.

2. GOK OFFICERS, WITH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ADAMBA TAKING LEAD, THEN BRIEFED US TO FOLLOWING EFFECT:

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(A) GOK BELIEVES SUBSTANTIAL THREAT EXISTS OF SWARM MOVEMENTS INTO NORTH EAST PROVINCE AROUND MID-OCTOBER.

(B) GOK REMAINS COMMITTED TO DLCO EFFORTS AND HAS "FULLY PAID ITS DUES" TO DLCO; BUT IS LESS THAN FULLY CONFIDENT OF DLCO'S ORGANIZATIONAL AND LOGISTICAL CAPABILITIES TO MEET KENYA'S POTENTIAL REQUIREMENTS, ESPECIALLY IF SWARMS DO CROSS BORDER IN OCTOBER.

(C) GOK FEELS VULNERABLE AS ONLY DLCO MEMBER STATE LACKING ITS OWN NATIONAL CAPABILITY IN LOCUST CONTROL CATEGORY.

(D) FOR ABOVE REASONS, GOK HAS MOVED VIGOROUSLY IN RECENT WEEKS TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN NATIONAL FORCE. MORE THAN K.SH. 8 MILLION (\$1.1 MILLION) HAVE BEEN "FOUND" BY LIMITING OR CURTAILING PREVIOUSLY BUDGETED SERVICES IN OTHER CATEGORIES. (NOTE: GOK DECISION TO ACT WAS MADE AFTER RECENT BUDGET SUBMISSION, THUS MAKING FINANCING PROCEDURALLY DIFFICULT.) EXPENDITURES ARE NOW GOING FORWARD IN SUCH CATEGORIES AS MODIFICATION OF KAF AIRCRAFT (FOUR) FOR SPRAYING PURPOSES; PURCHASE OF INSECTICIDES (FENITHROTHION AND SUMITHION); LAND ROVERS AND OTHER GROUND EQUIPMENT; LOAD CARRIERS AND SPRAYING EQUIPMENT. (USAID HAS ITEMIZED BREAKOUT OF ALL GOK UPCOMING PURCHASES, WHICH CAN BE POUCHED ON REQUEST.) ALL GOK'S REQUIREMENTS ON THIS LIST ARE AVAILABLE IN-

COUNTRY AND NO ASSISTANCE FROM DONORS NECESSARY.

(E) WHAT GOK LACKS AND WOULD MOST WELCOME FROM ANY DONOR, ON GRANT BASIS, ARE TWO BEAVER AIRCRAFT. THESE ARE NECESSARY, IN GOK'S JUDGMENT, TO SUPPLEMENT FOUR MILITARY AIRCRAFT BEING CONVERTED FOR SPRAYING PURPOSES. GOK HAS TRAINED PILOTS, MAINTENANCE FACILITIES, ETC., SO THAT EFFECTIVE USE OF BEAVERS IN COMING MONTHS WOULD POSE NO PROBLEM. LONGER TERM USE (I.E., CONFIDENTIAL

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AFTER LOCUST EMERGENCY) WOULD BE FOR SPRAYING AGAINST ARMY WORMS AND POSSIBLY QUELLA BIRDS (RECURRING PROBLEMS IN KENYA). USAID WAS STRONGLY REQUESTED TO CONSIDER FURNISHING THESE BEAVERS, IF POSSIBLE; OUR RESPONSE WAS OF COURSE NON-COMMITTAL AND DREW AGAIN ON USG POLICY OF SUPPORT THOROUGH FAO/DLCO CHANNEL.

(F) GOK WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO TEAM OF VISITING EXPERTS TO ACCESS NEEDS (REF D), BUT QUESTIONS NECESSITY. FEELS NEED REASONABLY WELL KNOWN ALREADY AND ARE BROKEN OUT IN DETAIL (LIST REFERENCED ABOVE).

(G) GOK WOULD WELCOME FROM USG OR OTHER SOURCES ANY AND ALL DETAILED INFO ON SWARM MOVEMENTS IN OGADEN AND OTHER AREAS. FEELS THERE IS CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION GAP, WHICH IS IMPEDING ITS OWN PLANNING.

3. LATER ON AUGUST 8, WE MET WITH GURDAS SINGH, FAO/DG'S SPECIAL CONSULTANT ON LOCUST CONTROL AND TRAINED ENTOMOLOGIST, WHO IS NOW ON OFFICIAL TOUR OF REGION. SINGH BELIEVES SWARM MOVEMENTS INTO KENYA IN OCTOBER ARE CERTAINLY POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH DECEMBER IS MORE LIKELY; IMPOSSIBLE TO QUANTIFY PROBABILITIES (SAID SINGH) BUT KENYA'S "WORST CASE" ADVANCE PLANNING IS CERTAINLY NOT UNREASONABLE.

4. SINGH ALSO SAID THAT FAO/DLCO HAVE NOW LOCATED SEVERAL BEAVERS (EIGHT) FOR SALE IN ANIROBI THROUGH PRIVATE CHANNELS AT ABOUT \$27,000 APIECE. THESE BEAVERS WERE PREVIOUSLY OWNED BY KENYA IAR FORCE BUT, REGRETTABLY, SOLD SOME TIME AGO, I.E., AT A TIME WHEN THEY WERE APPARENTLY SURPLUS TO ANY THEN FORESEEN REQUIREMENTS (SEE REF G.). CONDITION OF THESE AIRCRAFT NOW CONFIDENTIAL

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BEING CHECKED OUT THROUGH LOGBOOK INSPECTIONS, ETC. LIKELY THAT FAO/DLCO WILL TAKE "THE CREAM" - THE THREE BEST - PLUS ALL AVAILABLE SPARE PARTS. SINGH SAID MONEY IS IN HAND WITH FAO FOR SUCH PURPOSE AND

PURCHASE BY FAO/DLCO QUITE LIKELY. THEIR PURCHASE WOULD, IN SINGH'S VIEW, GIVE DLCO NECESSARY AIRCRAFT CAPABILITY WHEN COMBINED WITH DLCO'S CURRENT AIRCRAFT FLEET AT WILSON AIRPORT/NAIROBI (REF B). ALSO (FYI), SINGH TOLD US FAO HAS PREVIOUSLY AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO MOUNTING OF JOINT ASSESSMENT TEAM (REF D) AND FORMAL CONCURRENCE TO THAT PROPOSAL SHOULD SHORTLY BE FORTHCOMING. FINALLY, SINGH SAW NO PROBLEM FROM FAO'S VIEWPOINT IN HYPOTHETICAL USG OR OTHER DONOR BILATERAL ASSISTANCE, VIA PLANES OR OTHERWISE, TO GOK.

5. IN LIGHT OF STATEMENTS FROM SINGH AS TO BEAVERS NOW AVAILABLE IN KENYA, USAID (ON AUGUST 9) EXPLORED WITH GOK (ADAMBA) WHETHER GOK KNEW ABOUT THESE AIRCRAFT AND MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THEIR PURCHASE. ANSWER WAS THAT GOK HAS NOW COMMITTED ALL CORRENTLY AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO LOCUST CONTROL EFFORT AND SIMPLY LACKS THE MONEY.

FURTHER, THERE WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL EMBARRASSEMENT (SAID ADAMBA) IN GOK'S MOVING NOW TO BUY BACK PLANES WHICH ONLY RECENTLY WERE SOLD BY KAF. COMMENT: FROM USG STANDPOINT, IT WOULD SEEM INAPPROPRIATE, AND INCONSISTENT WITH OUR SUPPORT OF FAO/DLCO EFFORTS, FOR US TO "PUSH" GOK TOWARD PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT ON WHICH FAO/DLCO SEEM TO HAVE ESTABLISHEED FIRST OPTION AND THE BEST OF WHICH, PLUS ALL SPARES, IT SEEMS NOW MOVING TO PURCHASE.

6. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, WE REQUEST AID/W ADVISE AS TO CONTINUED AVAILABILITY IN U.S. OF EXCESS BEAVER AIRCRAFT (REF A); AND, IF AVAILABLE, WHETHER AT LEAST TWO OF THOSE AIRCRAFT CAN BE PROVIDED TO GOK ON CONFIDENTIAL

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GRANT BASIS IN NEAR FUTURE OR - NO DOUBT LESS ATTRACTIVE TO GOK - OFFERED ON SALES BASIS. FRM REF B, AND ESPECIALLY FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH SINGH REPORTED ABOVE, IT APPEARS QUITE CLEAR THAT FAO/DLCO IS NOT INTERESTED IN THESE PARTICULAR STATESIDE AIRCRAFT. IF EITHER GRANT OR SALE OFFER POSSIBLE, FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFO WILL ALSO BE NECESSARY:

(A) CAN PLANES BE INSPECTED BY USG OFFICIAL TO DETERMINE CONDITION?

(B) ARE ANY SPARES AVAILABLE WITH AIRCRAFT? IF NOT, WOULD PURCHASE OF ONE OR TWO ADDITIONAL BEAVERS FOR PURPOSES OF LATER CANNIBALIZATION BE POSSIBLE?

(C) WHAT ABOUT TRANSPORT OF PLANES TO KENYA? TO US, AIR TRANSPORT BY USAF OR COMMERCIAL CARRIER (IF LATTER PRACTICAL) SEEM ONLY FEASIBLE METHOD. WILL APPRECIATE ADVICE.

7. PENDING ADVICE FROM AID/W, WE OF COURSE ARE RE-

MAINING NON-COMMITTAL WITH GOK, ALTHOUGH GOK KNOWS
(OBVIOUSLY) THAT WE ARE EXPLORING POSSIBLE AVAILA-
BILITY OF BEAVERS.

8. AS INDICATED ABOVE, GOK WILL APPRECIATE ON ONGOING
BASIS BEST POSSIBLE INFORMATION AS TO MOVEMENT OF LOCAL
SWARMS IN EAST AFRICA, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
OGADEN AREA. MISSION WOULD BE PLEASED TO TRANSMIT SUCH
INFORMATION TO GOK. IN THIS REGARD, REF H MOST HELPFUL
AND RELEVANT INFO BEING PASSED TO GOK.

9. AS REQUESTED REF F AMBASSADOR AND ASSISTANT
USAID DIRECTOR CALLED ON VICE PRESIDENT MOI ON AUGUST 11,
1978. THE VICE PRESIDENT ONLY RETURNED TO NAIROBI MORNING OF
AUGUST 11, 1978.
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GENERAL REVIEW OF LOCUST PROBLEMS PROSPECTS
WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY V.P.'S (A) ASSERTING HIS GOVERNMENT'S
STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF FAO/DLCO MULTI-LATERAL EFFORTS
AND (B) DESIRABILITY OF SOMALIA/ETHIOPIA COOPERATION IN
OGADEN SPRAYING AND OPERATIONS AND OTHERWISE. SAID HE
WOULD USE HIS GOOD OFFICES IN LATTER RESPECT.

10. COMMENT: I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZZE AGAIN THAT NO
COMMITMENT ON THE BEAVERS HAS BEEN MADE TO THE GOK AND
THE INFORMATION REQUESTED IS FOR OUR INTERNAL PLANNING
PURPOSES. IN THE MEANTIME I HAVE REQUESTED MORE INFORMATION
AND CLARIFICATION ON THE SALE OF THE EIGHT BEAVERS BY
THE KENYA AIR FORCE TO A PRIVATE SPECULATOR ONLY SEVERAL
WEEKS AGO. SUCH ACTION SEEMS A BIT STRANGE TO ME SINCE
THE SALE OF THESE AIRCRAFT APPARENTLY TOOK PLACE AFTER
THE LOCUST THREAT WAS ALREADY WELL KNOWN AND EFFORTS
SHOULD HAVE BEEN UNDERWAY TO PREPARE FOR IT, INCLUDING
THE READYING OF THE BEAVERS THAT WERE ALREADY OWNED BY
THE GOK. IF THESE AIRCRAFT WERE SOLD WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE
OF THE IMPENDING LOCUST THREAT THEN THERE IS NO BASIS
FOR THE USG TO EVEN CONSIDER THE GRANTING OF NEW BEAVERS
TO THE GOK. I INSIST THAT WE MUST HAVE A COMPLETE
CLARIFICATION THIS MATTER BEFORE THE GRANTING OF
DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO THE GOK CAN BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED.

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UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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